



History Articles of Confederation and the Constitution Essay

World History I (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)



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LEQ: Overview of the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution

Directions: Read the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States, and complete the chart with information about the documents.

Topic	Articles of Confederation	Constitution of the United States
1. Type of Government	-Unicameral type of government, democratic government	-Bicameral type of government, democratic-republic government
2. Mode of Ratification	Signed a document by Congress and all 13 states	Signed a document
3. Legislative Branch	Congress, only had one house, states only had 1 vote	Congress, had two houses, Senate and House of Representatives
4. Mode of Representation, Election and Term in Office of Legislature	1-7 delegates represent a state, and the state only gets one vote, elected by state legislatures.	There's senators from the Senate and representatives from the House of Representatives, elected by popular vote and state decision, 6 year term for senator and 2 year term for representatives.
5. Executive Branch	No executive branch	president
6. Judicial Branch	No judicial branch	Supreme court
7. Taxes	Congress had no power to tax	Congress given power to tax, federal taxes from paychecks and tax imports and exports.

After completing the table above, please answer the following LEQ:

ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION VS CONSTITUTION LEQ

Please answer the LEQ below using 5 paragraphs: (See below for reminder on how to complete the LEQ)

Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.

ANSWER YOUR LEQ HERE:

Throughout the American Revolution, the colonists went through many hardships to achieve their independence from Britain. They managed to get through the acts that prohibited colonists from living peacefully in their home. After obtaining independence from Britain, they needed to create a form of government, which was the Articles of Confederation. Soon after, the U.S Constitution was created which is our current government. One similarity that the Articles of Confederation and U.S Constitution is that both Congresses were given permission to make laws, and two differences that the two documents have are that the Constitution has different branches to split the power in the government and are allowed to tax.

The Articles of Confederation and the U.S Constitution are similar in that their Congresses were given power to make laws for the nation. The Articles of Confederation allowed the Congress to establish the rights of their people and create certain laws for the benefit of the nation. This allowed for the unification of all the colonies after the war. The Constitution with their separate houses in Congress were given power to create laws that would be passed through the other branches of government.

Even though both Congresses are allowed to make laws for their people, the Articles of Confederation were limited to their power as only the Constitution has the power to tax and has separate branches to split the power in the government. The Articles of Confederation were not allowed to do certain tasks like tax states and create a militia without the consent of all the states. This was seen to be a flaw in the Articles since there was no strong authority over the states, so this was dropped and the Constitution was created.

Furthermore, the Constitution allows for the government to tax and regulate commerce, which the Articles were not allowed to do. This was seen as an improvement to their government as they can trade and have national commerce. The Constitution also is composed of three branches: the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches. Unlike the Articles of Confederation which only had Congress that had all the power, the three branches of the Constitution split the power so there would be no unbalanced branch in the

government. This would be the checks and balances that would keep our current government in order.

Ever since the switch from the Articles of Confederation to our current Constitution, we have been governed by the same political system they used in the late 1700's. Although the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution have some similar features, the Constitution comes out on top with its reformed ideas of government.

LEQ Breakdown

FOR AP WORLD & AP U.S. HISTORY
QUICK REFERENCE WRITING GUIDE

Historical thinking Skills 3C's

1 BREAKDOWN THE PROMPT

- **Verb** [what the prompt asks you to do]
- **Skill** [historical thinking skill & parameters]
- **Topic** [what, who, where, when]

You will always **EVALUATE**:
[Judge the significance, condition or value of a subject, event, or object]

SIGNAL WORDS

CAUSATION

more positive or negative and for whom?

caused, effected, affected, led to, resulted in, in order to, as a result of, because of, consequently, accordingly, due to

COMPARISON

more similarities or differences; which more significantly impacted the time period, region(s), etc.

compare, contrast similarities, differences, although, conversely despite/ in spite, however, even though, as opposed to

CCOT

more changes or continuities; which were more significant and for whom?

changes, continuities, initially, not long after, before, next, after

2 LIST & CATEGORIZE YOUR HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE

ONCE YOU DETERMINE THE HISTORICAL THINKING SKILL, PRE-WRITE TO ORGANIZE YOUR THOUGHTS

CAUSATION

TOPIC(S)	CAUSES	EFFECTS	EVIDENCE & ANALYSIS
	Major or Minor	Short or Long Term	

Identify: are they positive or negative?

COMPARISON

PLACE/ REGION #1	TOPIC	PLACE/ REGION #2

Identify: themes of sim. or dif.

CONTINUITY/CHANGE

BEGINNING	TURNING POINT	CHANGES & ANALYSIS	CONTINUITIES & ANALYSIS

A TURNING POINT needs to be identified first

3 EXAMPLE OUTLINE

Thesis Formula: Y because A/B. However/Although X.

Y = Historically Defensible Claim/Assertion [you state what is there MORE of here]
 A/B = Line of Reasoning - Most Significant Points [Body Paragraphs] ex: 2 similarities
 X = Line of Reasoning - Least Significant [Body Paragraphs] ex: 1 difference

INTRO PARAGRAPH

- Contextualization
- Thesis Statement

3 BODY PARAGRAPHS

CAUSATION

Split into three paragraphs

OR

- 2 Causes and 1 Effect
- 2 Effects and 1 Cause

- Topic Sentence
- 3+ sentences per cause/effect
- 1. Identify cause/effect
- 2. Explain the cause/effect focusing WHY
- 3. Use evidence to support the cause/effect

CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH

- Re-state your argument
- Add complex understanding: extend argument to another region or time!
This should also be added in body paragraphs if possible.

COMPARISON

Split into three paragraphs

OR

- 2 Similarities and 1 Difference
- 2 Differences and 1 Similarity

- Topic Sentence
- 3+ sentences per similarity/difference
- 1. Identify similarity/difference
- 2. Explain the sim/diff
- 3. Use evidence to support the sim/diff

CONTINUITY/CHANGE

Split into three paragraphs

OR

- 2 Changes and 1 Continuity
- 2 Continuity and 1 Change

- Explain the Turning Point!
- Topic Sentence
- 3+ sentences per change/continuity
- 1. Identify change/continuity
- 2. Explain the change/continuity
- 3. Use evidence to support the change/continuity

#APHISTORYWRITING

AP History LEQ Rubric (6 points)

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Reporting Category	Scoring Criteria	Decision Rules
A THESIS/CLAIM	1 pt.	To earn this point, the thesis must make a claim